

Kent leaves behind floor burns for new life as basketball coach

By NEIL GRUENFELDER
Of the Emerald

The new JV basketball coach hardly needs an introduction.

A four-year varsity basketball performer, Ernie Kent has given up floor-burns and competition for blackboards and instruction. He replaces Bruce Coldren, who is now the head coach at Lowell High School.

Kent, a prep All-American at Rockford West in Rockford, Ill., was instrumental in helping the Ducks claim second place in the Pac-8 last season. He was the Ducks' second leading scorer, behind Greg Ballard, averaging more than nine points a game.

Last year was a first for Kent in that he was able to play in all 29 games. In three previous seasons, his tender knees restricted his playing time and cost him a possible professional career.

"I had offers to tryout. I thought about it, but it's the same old thing," Kent said, shaking his head and looking at his knees.

Oregon rolls to seventh win with easy triumph over OCE

Looking as strong as ever, the Oregon volleyball team rolled to an easy 15-4, 15-6, 10-15, 15-13 victory over Oregon College of Education Tuesday night in Monmouth.

The victory was the Duck's seventh of the still young season. Oregon has only one loss.

The Ducks had no trouble at all with the Wolves in the first two games of the match, rolling to easy wins. Coach Karla Rice's club, which has qualified for nationals the past seven years, played well together as a team in the opening games, exploiting the Wolves' weaknesses. Oregon had beaten OCE the previous weekend in Bellingham.

Once ahead 2-0 and within one game of claiming the match, the

Ducks lost their momentum in the third game. OCE pulled itself back into the match by winning the third game 15-10.

Oregon put its act back together to wrap up the match with a narrow 15-13 win in the fourth game.

Three players were cited as being outstanding for Oregon. Shawna Baxter was devastating on the front line, dominating net play with her vicious spikes. Baxter had a kill ratio of 33 percent on

her spiking efforts.

Also turning in outstanding games for Oregon were Christie McFarland and Mary O'Brien.

McFarland moved to center and showed a lot of improvement, according to Coach Rice.

O'Brien moved to an outside hitter spot in the front row and the 6-0 O'Brien proved effective in that capacity.

The Oregon j.v. also won, defeating OCE 15-11, 15-13.

The N.B.A.'s loss may well be Oregon's gain. Besides coaching the JV's, Kent is also an assistant to Dick Harter.

Currently, 22 players are trying out for the team with 15 guaranteed a spot. Official practice does not begin until Nov. 22, with the first game Nov. 22. The JV will battle other four-year colleges in Oregon as well as community college and A.A.U. teams.

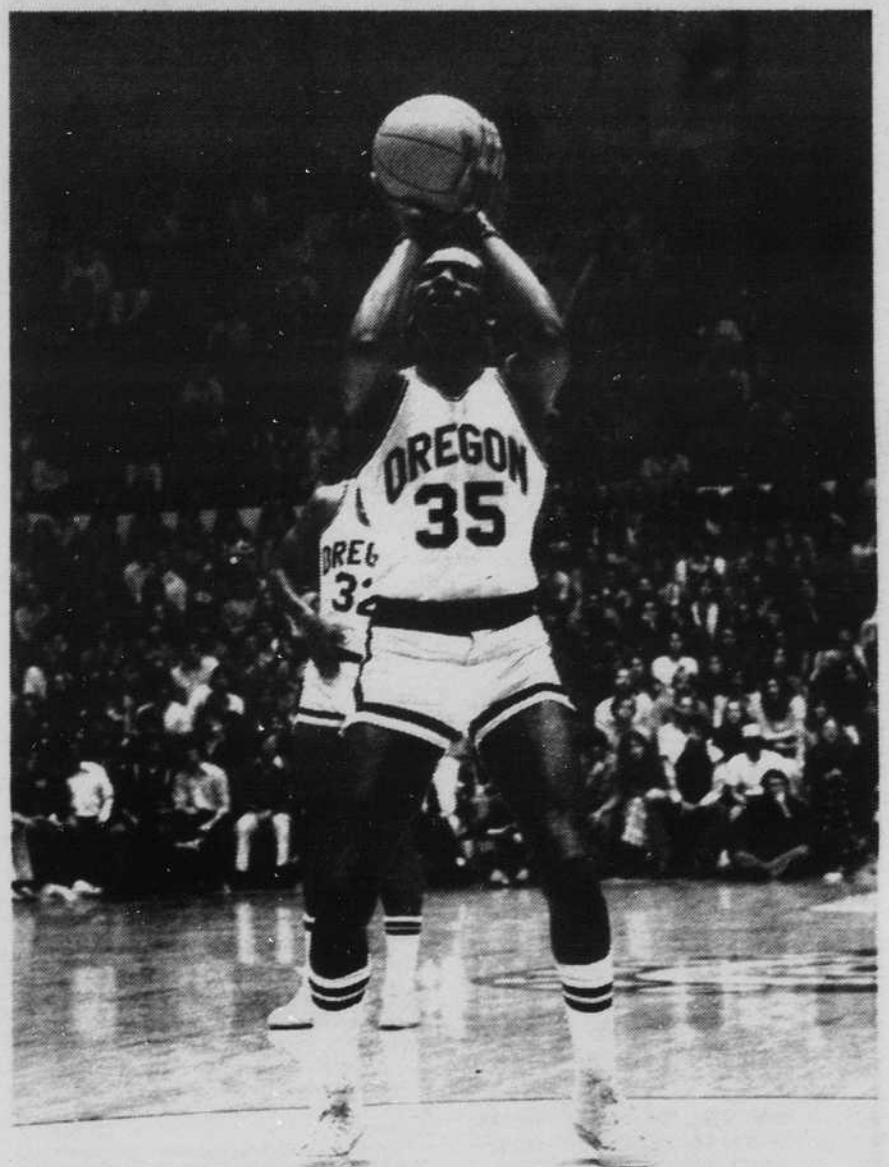
Kent said the team's goals are a little different this year. "We want to win as many games as possible," he said. "I want them to have fun at what they are doing. That's the main thing."

Fun is the main incentive for the JV since none of them are likely to play for the varsity.

"It's really hard to step up to varsity, when your a walk-on. There is just too much talent up there. They have their own system and their own program. The JV is a team within itself," Kent said.

In addition to coaching, Kent enjoys driving his van and being a disc jockey in a local discotheque.

"I'm JV by day, DJ at night," he said.



After spending four years on the Oregon varsity basketball team, Ernie Kent moves down to the junior varsity ... as a coach. Kent cites having fun as the prime objective of his program.

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